

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

*Cancel claims 1-21, 26, 28, 30-33, 35-37, 39, 40, 42, 44, 49, 51, 53-56, 58-60, 62, 63, 65 and 67.*

*Amend claims 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 34, 38, 41, 43, 45, 47, 48, 50, 52, 57, 61, 64 and 66.*

1-21. (CANCELLED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An exercise device comprising (a) a frame defining a transverse axis, (b) a guide rail, (c) a transversely extending drive shaft rotatably attached to the frame and extending along the transverse axis, (d) first and second extension elements extending away from the transverse axis and fixedly attached to the drive shaft for unitary rotation with the drive shaft, (e) first and second foot links each having (i) first and second ends, (ii) a first end portion pivotally attached to an extension element at a first pivot point spaced from the transverse axis for travel along a closed loop path relative to the transverse axis, and (C) a second end portion supported by the guide rail for permitting longitudinal travel of the second end portion of the foot link along a reciprocating path (b) (f) first and second foot supports operably associated with the frame supported on the first and second foot links respectively, for traveling in a forward and backward direction along a closed loop path relative to the transverse axis wherein the closed loop path defines a stride height, (e) (g) a means effective for sensing the direction of travel of the foot supports along the closed loop path as between the forward and the backward directions, and (d) (h) a means for automatically adjusting the stride height of the closed loop path traveled by the foot supports based upon the sensed direction of travel of the foot supports.

23. (ORIGINAL) The exercise device of claim 22 wherein the closed loop path is an elliptical path.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 22 wherein (i) the foot supports links are operably connected to the frame through a connecting system having at least two members pivotally attached to one another at a designated pivot point, and (ii) the means for automatically adjusting the stride height of the closed loop path traveled by the foot supports,

comprises (A) a means for adjusting the designated pivot point along the length of at least one member of the connecting system, and (B) a control unit in communication with the direction sensor and the stride height adjustment means for receiving a signal from the sensor indicating the direction of travel of the foot supports along the closed loop path and automatically adjusting the designated pivot point along the length of at least one member of the connecting system based upon the received signal.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim ~~22~~ 24 wherein the connecting system includes (i) ~~first and second foot links each having a first end and supporting one of the foot supports,~~ (ii) first and second connector links each having a first end and a second end, with each connector link pivotally attached proximate the first end to one of the foot links proximate the first end of the foot link at a foot link pivot point, ~~(iii) and~~ (ii) first and second rocker arms each having a first end and a second end, with each rocker arm pivotally attached proximate the first end to the frame and pivotally attached proximate the second end to one of the connector links proximate the second end of the connector link at a rocker pivot point, ~~(iv) a drive shaft rotatably attached to the frame, and (v) first and second crank arms having first and second ends, with each crank arm attached proximate the first end to the drive shaft and~~ with each extension element pivotally attached proximate the second end to the respective connector link at a crank pivot point which is positioned intermediate the foot support pivot point and the rocker pivot point.

26. (CANCELLED)

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim ~~26~~ 22 wherein the guide rail is configured and arranged to impart a linear reciprocating path of travel to the second end portion of the foot links as the foot supports travel along the closed loop path.

28. (CANCELLED)

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim ~~26~~ 22 wherein the means for automatically adjusting the stride height of the closed loop path traveled by the foot supports

comprises a means for adjusting the angle of incline of the guide rail.

30-33. (CANCELLED)

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 26 22 wherein the extension element is a crank shaft.

35-37. (CANCELLED)

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 26 22 wherein the first end portion of each foot link is indirectly pivotally attached to the extension element.

39. (CANCELLED)

40. (CANCELLED)

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 25 22 wherein (i) the first end of each foot link is ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinally spaced in a first longitudinal direction from the second end of the foot link, (ii) the second end of each foot link is ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinally spaced in a second longitudinal direction from the first end of the foot link, and (iii) the foot supports are supported by the foot links at a position longitudinally spaced in the second longitudinal direction from the point at which the foot links are supported by the guide rail.

42. (CANCELLED)

43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 25 22 wherein the first end of each foot link travels along a non-circular arcuate path relative to the transverse axis.

44. (CANCELLED)

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An exercise device comprising (a) a frame defining a transverse

axis, (b) a guide rail, (c) a transversely extending drive shaft rotatably attached to the frame and extending along the transverse axis, (d) first and second extension elements extending away from the transverse axis and fixedly attached to the drive shaft for unitary rotation with the drive shaft, (e) first and second foot links each having (i) first and second ends, (ii) a first end portion pivotally attached to an extension element at a first pivot point spaced from the transverse axis for travel along a closed loop path relative to the transverse axis, and (C) a second end portion supported by the guide rail for permitting longitudinal travel of the second end portion of the foot link along a reciprocating path (b) (f) first and second foot supports operably associated with the frame supported on the first and second foot links respectively, for traveling in a forward and backward direction along a closed loop path relative to the transverse axis wherein the closed loop path defines a stride length and stride height, (e) (g) a means effective for sensing the direction of travel of the foot supports along the closed loop path as between the forward and the backward directions, and (d) (h) a means for automatically adjusting the stride length and stride height of the closed loop path traveled by the foot supports based upon the sensed direction of travel of the foot supports.

46. (ORIGINAL) The exercise device of claim 45 wherein the closed loop path is an elliptical path.

47. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 22 wherein (i) the foot ~~supports~~ links are operably connected to the frame through a connecting system having at least two members pivotally attached to one another at a designated pivot point, and (ii) the means for automatically adjusting the stride length and stride height of the closed loop path traveled by the foot supports, comprises (A) a means for adjusting the designated pivot point along the length of at least one member of the connecting system, and (B) a control unit in communication with the direction sensor and the stride length and stride height adjustment means for receiving a signal from the sensor indicting the direction of travel of the foot supports along the closed loop path and automatically adjusting the designated pivot point along the length of at least one member of the connecting system based upon the received signal.

48. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 22 24 wherein the connecting

system includes (i) ~~first and second foot links each having a first end and supporting one of the foot supports~~, (ii) first and second connector links each having a first end and a second end, with each connector link pivotally attached proximate the first end to one of the foot links proximate the first end of the foot link at a foot link pivot point, ~~(iii) and (ii)~~ first and second rocker arms each having a first end and a second end, with each rocker arm pivotally attached proximate the first end to the frame and pivotally attached proximate the second end to one of the connector links proximate the second end of the connector link at a rocker pivot point, ~~(iv) a drive shaft rotatably attached to the frame, and (v) first and second crank arms having first and second ends, with each crank arm attached proximate the first end to the drive shaft and with each extension element~~ pivotally attached proximate the second end to the respective connector link at a crank pivot point which is positioned intermediate the foot support pivot point and the rocker pivot point.

49. (CANCELLED)

50. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 49 45 wherein the guide rail is configured and arranged to impart a linear reciprocating path of travel to the second end portion of the foot links as the foot supports travel along the closed loop path.

51. (CANCELLED)

52. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 49 45 wherein the means for automatically adjusting the stride length and stride height of the closed loop path traveled by the foot supports comprises a means for adjusting the angle of incline of the guide rail.

53-56. (CANCELLED)

57. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 49 45 wherein the extension element is a crank shaft.

58-60. (CANCELLED)

61. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 49 ~~45~~ wherein the first end portion of each foot link is indirectly pivotally attached to the extension element.

62. (CANCELLED)

63. (CANCELLED)

64. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 48 ~~45~~ wherein (i) the first end of each foot link is ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinally spaced in a first longitudinal direction from the second end of the foot link, (ii) the second end of each foot link is ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinally spaced in a second longitudinal direction from the first end of the foot link, and (iii) the foot supports are supported by the foot links at a position longitudinally spaced in the second longitudinal direction from the point at which the foot links are supported by the guide rail.

65. (CANCELLED)

66. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The exercise device of claim 48 ~~45~~ wherein the first end of each foot link travels along a non-circular arcuate path relative to the transverse axis.

67. (CANCELLED)